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VICKS MAGAZINE

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No. 1

THE CRINUMS.

THE Crinums, consisting of several species and varieties, are warm greenhouse, evergreen, bulbous-rooted plants, belonging to the Natural Order Amaryllidaceae. The genus is a very large one, and the different species are found in nearly all tropical and sub-tropical countries. They are closely related to the amaryllis and the pancratium. Properly cared for the crinums produce the most satisfactory results when grown as pot plants, and all are well adapted for the decoration of the greenhouse, while those varieties that are of a more dwarf habit can be grown with satisfactory results in the window garden. To give the crinums sufficient opportunity to properly develop themselves, they should be given a soil composed of two-thirds well rotted sods, one-third well decomposed manure, and a good sprinkling of bone dust, mix well, and use the compost rough. In potting, use pots or tubs proportionate to the size of the bulbs, and see that they are properly drained, for if the pots are one-third filled with drainage it will be none too much. Although the crinums require an abundant supply of water, both overhead and at their roots, during the season of growth, yet they soon suffer if the water becomes stagnant and the soil sodden around the roots. In potting, let about one-third of the bulb be placed in the soil, then water thoroughly, and place in a warm and moist situation, and as soon as growth commences an abundant supply of water should be given, both overhead and at the roots. When the plants are growing rapidly, a little liquid manure may occasionally be given and the plants shifted into larger pots whenever they require it. Do not permit the plants to become pot-bound while small, or until they attain a blooming size. During the winter months, or when the plants are in a state of rest, the liquid manure must not be given, and the supply of water should be reduced; yet at no time should the roots or foliage be permitted to suffer for want of moisture. The plants should also be placed where they can receive all the sunlight possible, so as to mature the growth, and induce them to flower freely the ensuing season. Propagation is effected by offsets, which should be removed when the plants are being repotted, and treated as advised for the parent bulbs. The roots of these bulbs do not ripen annually like those of most bulbs, but remain fresh, consequently they are never to be wholly dried off. Plants in pots need to be repotted only every other year; or if in tubs of considerable size, once in three years is often enough. When repotting is done, shake out the old soil and shorten the roots, and give fresh soil such as already described.

Of the many varieties, the most desirable are here mentioned:

CRINUM AMABILE.—This noble species is a native of the East Indies, whence it was introduced in 1810. It requires the heat of a warm greenhouse in order to properly develop it. The bulbous stems grow to an immense size, from four to six inches in diameter, and about two feet in length, while the flowers are produced on scapes from three to four feet in length, each scape bearing an umbel of twenty to thirty large, fragrant flowers, about nine inches in length and of a purple color.

C. AMERICANUM is a native of the swamps of Florida, where it grows in a very rich, but wet soil. It is an evergreen species, with long linear leaves. It blooms best when somewhat pot bound, and its large, exqui-

sitely fragrant lily-like flowers are produced in large umbels, on long, slender scapes, at intervals throughout the year.

C. CAPENSE is a species of great beauty, and one of the easiest to manage as a pot plant. It blooms during the summer months, the flowers being produced in umbels. They are lily-shaped and in color white, flushed with pink,—a deep stripe running through each petal.

C. FIMBRIATULUM is popularly known as the "Milk and Wine Lily." It is a grand species of strong upright growth, with erect sword-shaped foliage, and the flowers are borne in large umbels. Each flower is from three to four inches in diameter, striped white and carmine, and of exquisite fragrance.

C. ORNATUM.—This stately and magnificent plant is the undisputed queen of bulbs, but unfortunately is being offered under various names, viz.: Kirky, Kirkii and Nobile, all of which are evidently varieties of *C. ornatum*, differing merely in the color of the flowers. It has very



Photographed August 25 1898

GROUP OF ROCHESTER FLORISTS
HAVING AN OUTING AT THE
TRIAL GROUNDS AND SEED FARM
OF JAMES VICKS SONS

handsome foliage, the numerous wavy-edged leaves forming a perfect rosette, from which the flower stalk rises to a height of about two feet, each stalk bearing a large umbel, comprised of from ten to fifteen large, lily-like flowers of great beauty and delicate fragrance. The petals are quite broad, pure white, with a deep reddish-purple stripe down the center.

C. PEDUNCULATUM is popularly known as St. Johns Lily. It is a native of South Africa, and closely resembles *C. americanum* in all respects, except in size, being much larger. It blooms at intervals throughout the year, the flowers being borne in immense umbels, on a stalk from two to three feet in length, each umbel being composed of from twenty to thirty pearly-white purple-anthered flowers.

C. SCABIUM has pale green foliage, with crimped or curled margins, and usually produces two flower scapes at a time. In shape and size the flowers resemble the *Candidum* lily, but have a much longer tube. The broad petals are of a pure, sparkling white, with a light red stripe down the outside. The flowers are produced in large umbels, each umbel containing from ten to fifteen flowers.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.

Floral Park, N. Y.



Photographed August 25, 1898

VIEW ACROSS A PORTION OF SEED FARM
OF JAMES VICKS SONS

PEONIES.

Reviewing the flowers of the season I am quite sure that I received the most pleasure for the least trouble with my peonies. I mean, taking everything into consideration, for in the peony we have hardiness, color, fragrance and freedom from insect pests; yes and dignity—for there is just this quality about a fine, large bunch of these flowers with their clean cut foliage, so rich and dark and glossy. No nonsense about it—no drooping and breaking and being wind-whipped and rain-beaten, nor any half-hearted way about the quantity or size of the flowers it offers, with a sort of “I mean to do my level best every time” air.

Roses were magnificent this year—so full of large, perfect blossoms—but it was a hand-to-hand fight with lice, slugs of different sizes and sorts, and myriads of flies to secure them; the result, of course, was worth the effort, then the Queen of the Floral Kingdom must have our allegiance and be defended against her enemies. Notwithstanding a full bushel of blooms from a Baltimore Belle of twenty-five years growth, enough of Provence rose leaves for a pillow, plenty of “Jacks,” Paul Neyrons, Magna Chartas, and many other varieties, I found myself turning to the late peonies with relief because I did not have to stand over them with

hellebore and paris green. Then they had been such a comfort since the opening of spring; the single early variety with a lovely golden center and magenta petals blossomed the first of May; it was followed by the old-time double crimson, one so dear to children, who like to make little wads of the rich red leaves and explode them, or to paint their cheeks and color the pictures in their geographies with them; then come the Chinese peonies in pink and white, and the later sorts of various shades of rose and purple.

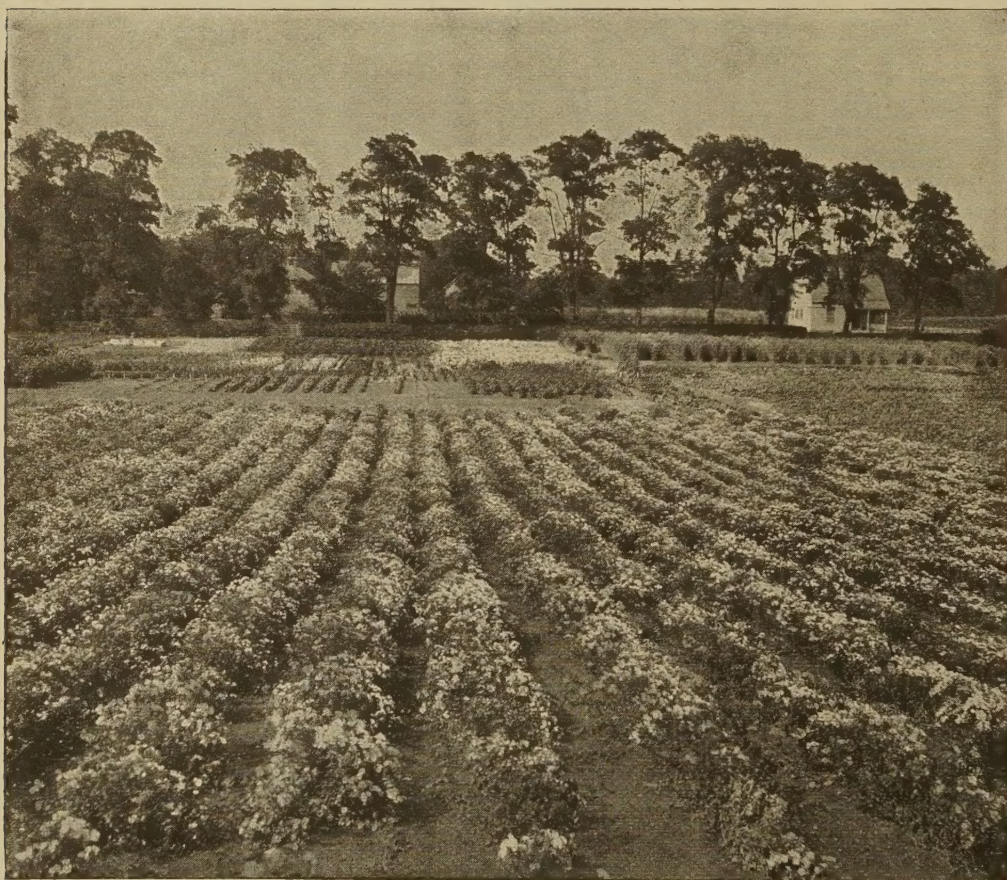
One beauty of the peony is that it may remain undisturbed for years without either spreading too much or deteriorating. We have a magnificent clump which has stood in the same spot almost ninety years; another bunch was divided and has made a fine hedge, brilliant when in bloom and attractive afterwards.

I saw an effective arrangement of peonies and lilies, a broad border being made to separate the lawn from the garden with *Lilium Canadense* in the background and peonies in front. The beauty of the latter had largely departed when the lilies came in bloom, but there were a few late flowers, and the foliage, with its deep green, formed an admirable contrast to the lilies' whiteness. Gladiolas had been alternated with the

lilies and made a fine showing later in the season.

The new Japanese tree peonies are simply superb, but do not seem quite as hardy as the Chinese varieties; while the *Peonia tenuifolia* with its brilliant deep red and finely cut foliage is perhaps the most charming of all. To be successful with any variety is an easy matter if the tubers—“piny toes” our grandmothers called them—are planted in the fall in deep, rich soil where they are to remain, for the peony does not like to be shifted here and there, but is tenacious of its home and if undisturbed will put up with almost any treatment, or even with utter neglect and go on blooming. A light dressing of coarse compost in the fall and a mulching in summer will, however, insure a profusion of large perfect flowers, for which it is well to provide support. A stake driven at each corner of the clump to serve as foundation for cross pieces against which the heavy blossoms and foliage may rest, seems a good way.

There are so many varieties of this plant that the beginner in its culture hardly knows which to order and will do well to leave the selection to the florist, a dozen, or even a half-dozen roots, giving a fine range of color. It seems



Photographed August 25, 1898

FIELD OF PHLOX DRUMMONDII
JAMES VICKS SONS' SEED FARM

strange that this flower has had such scant recognition as a flower of sentiment or story; it has been called "gay" and "flaunting" and "course," and, as if it knew itself to be despised but meant by good behavior to conquer its detractors, has gone right on with its good work of decorating the lawn, and is coming with force for its real worth and stability of character. Its companions of three quarters of a century ago are gone, except, perhaps, a few Bouncing Betts, that were thrown out by the roadside and keep on blooming in a straggling sort of way, and a strip of valerian that springs up yearly by the hedge. Its other contemporaries and favored rivals, London Pride, None-to-pretty and Love-lies-bleeding, have vanished with those who used to pick them and bring them in to fill the "bow-pots," and yet the sturdy peony stands its ground and makes its yearly offering of color and fragrance. Only slight mention is made by the poets of this flower. Jean Ingelow mentions that

"At the roots
Of peony bushes lay the rose-
red heaps
Or merry, fallen bloom;"
and in "The Adventure of a
Star," Montgomery tells us
that

"The pale primroses looked
their best,
Peonies blushed with all their
might."

One poet calls it "a crimson-
clad beauty," which it really
is. ADA MARIE PECK.

Waterville, N. Y.

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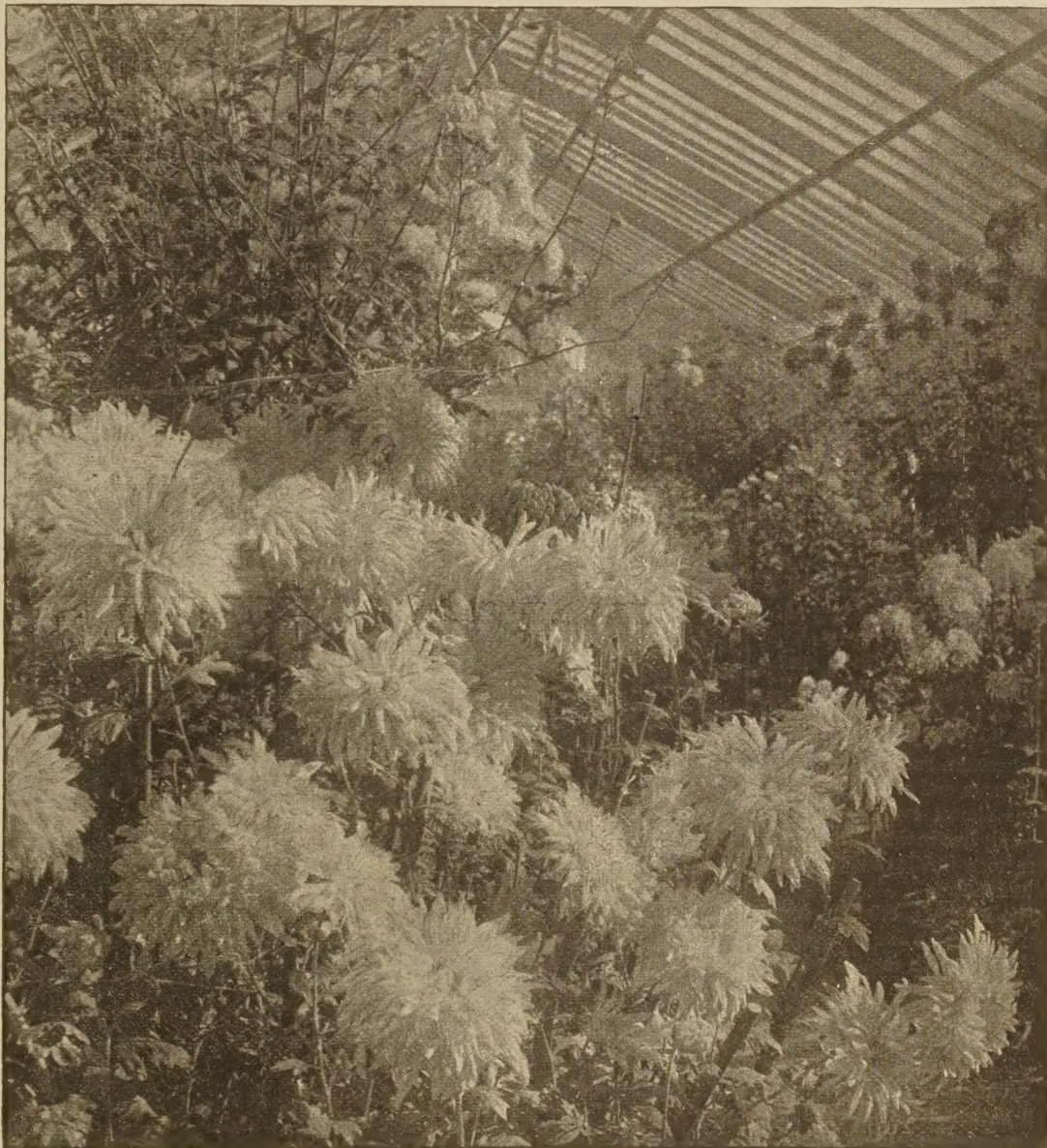
THE THANKSGIV- ING FLOWER.

TO flower-loving folks the chrysanthemum has a very distinct place among the blessings over which there is such a rejoicing this month. In cottage yards the hardy little pompons have fluffed out their flowers into long, gleaming lines of white, yellow, pink, and crimson since early in September; and now, under glass, begin to open the great noble flowers of November. For six months in the year we now can have chrysanthemums, if we choose. The latest fine ones that I ever saw were gathered about the middle of March. The florist told me that the plant from which these were gathered was a novelty that he intended to disseminate this year, but I had no difficulty in recognizing in it my old friend Mrs. Irving Clark. The plants had been taking a Rip Van Winkle nap somewhere,—perhaps in cold storage.

Chrysanthemum flowers can be "made to order" almost as accurately as ladies' gowns. Such a difference as stopping and disbudding do make in the flowers! Very strong mass effects are secured by leaving all the buds to grow; but then, of course, all the flowers will be small and lose their individuality. We have never cared for the eight- and nine-inch blooms made possible by growing a plant to but one stem and one flower. As a rule our plants are trained to four or five strong main branches, and all but eight or ten of the buds are pinched out. It is no great effort for an ordinary plant with ordinary culture to develop this number of buds into shapely, well colored flowers of normal size before frost. We buy strong plants in April and plant them in rich soil in small, well-drained pots. As the plants grow they are shifted into larger pots, until they finally stand in pots eight to ten inches across. When the buds begin to show we rub off all but one or two to a branch, and

begin to water the plants with liquid manure. This increases the size of the flowers and stiffens the stems; but we do not like stems so stiff that their poor flowers can look only at the ceiling. That beautiful old variety, Pitcher & Manda, with full, creamy yellow center and outer rim of moonshiny white, seemed always especially lovely to me because of the modest, downward tilt of its flowers. Buff Globe and Good Gracious are other pretty flowers of this sort. The refined individuality of a flower is sometimes destroyed by gross over-feeding, however, and we do not aspire to the coarse, heavy rays of the over-fed beauties so plentiful in exhibition halls; they always remind me of bloated beer-drinkers. So we are rather careful in the ministration of liquid stimulants, giving them only once a week.

The "pure, true pink" chrysanthemum novelty of the florists, though regularly reintroduced every year, is still a ghost; pure pink is a color



From a photograph

AT THE 'MUM SHOW
A GROUP OF NIVEUS

very hard to imprison within the walls of a 'Mum flower, we are told, and its permanence and purity depend more on the skill of the cultivator than upon the variety. This may be balm to the florist's smarting conscience, but it is cold comfort to the amateur who has tried in vain to "fix" that sweet, rosy flush upon an opening flower.

White and yellow seem to be the favorite colors of the best new varieties. It is not unusual to have half a dozen really extra good varieties introduced in one year. These stand firm like mileposts of progress, while the pink ones, alas, vanish! Dear old white Ivory will surely always be a favorite, but pink Ivory has proved but a rosy dream.

What finer yellows can we have than Golden Wedding, Eugene Dailedouze, Major Bonnafon, and Mrs. C. H. Whildin? I still cling to the first as the most beautiful of all pure, sunshine yellows, though by some people it has been discarded for later yellow varieties.

Among deep, dark reds none are finer than my old favorites, George W. Childs, Cullingfordii (for masses), or Philo, with facings of bronze. Mrs. Perrin now holds first place among pink chrysanthemums, because of its bright sparkling color. In a less pure tone we have still the fine older sorts, Lillian B. Bird, Mrs. E. G. Hill, Mrs. Irving Clark, and Ada Spaulding, the latter a beautiful combination of pink and ivory. Maude Dean and William Simpson, two other new pink claimants for favor, have been distanced by Mrs. Perrin. Of Helen Bloodgood, Marie Valteau and Dora, I can say nothing, having seen good plants of them but once or twice. The pink and white in these varieties seem to be interchangeable; so many "pure pinks" fade into white as they open so many "pure whites" flush with pink as they fade. Where shall we draw the line so as to be perfectly honest in our descriptions?

North Carolina.

L. GREENLEE.

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GRAPE MYRTLES AS HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

MANY of your readers know the crape myrtle, Lagerstroemia Indica, especially at the South, when it becomes a small tree. There are twenty-one species in the genus, some of them large trees, and they are found in the tropical and sub-tropical parts of India and other Asiatic countries, and in Australia and Madagascar. Some species have been given other names by botanists of the continent of Europe, but fortunately they have gained but little currency, and are practically suppressed.

In this country there are two Lagerstroemias catalogued as *L. reginae*, the most common being a handsome magenta crimson form of *L. Indica*. It has no right to the name *reginae*, and I am pleased to see the best nurseryman are dropping it. The true *Lagerstroemia flos-reginae* is a large timber tree with beautiful pink to purplish flowers, found naturally from Burmah through Northeastern India to the Western Ghats, and cultivated on the plains almost everywhere. It will only live in the warmest and least frosty Southern parts of the United States.

The magenta, crimson, common pink and white forms of *L. Indica* are much more common and popular at the South, and often seen even among cottagers at the North. They may be called hardy as shrubs in Delaware and South Jersey, if at all well sheltered. I have known the common pink form to endure mild winters at Harrisburg, Pa., but it cannot be quite depended upon north of Washington, D. C., except perhaps as a protected herbaceous plant. Some six years ago I planted out a strong plant near Trenton, N. J., with the idea of testing it. The tops have been frozen every winter since. Nevertheless, like the *Lespedezas* and other shrubs of like character, it grows stronger every year, until now it forms a plant with strong shoots four feet high, and the mass as much through, bearing panicles far stronger and more luxuriant than does a full grown tree. I notice the proprietor of the grounds has planted out several other strong plants, and will no doubt pose as a great discoverer presently! I think the better plan with the tops will be to shear them off almost six inches above ground, at Christmas time, and at once give the stools a good covering of dry leaves, pine needles or straw, perhaps turning an old bushel basket over the first, to prevent contact and mouldiness.

JAMES MACPHERSON.

Trenton, N. J.

NOTES ON ROSES.

The best way to protect roses in the north is yet an open question, some growers preferring one way while others follow an entirely different plan. Young plants, or any not over eighteen inches in height, are more easily killed by smothering than by freezing; for this reason great care must be exercised in covering them, so that the material used shall not pack down around them too closely. When this is the case the snow in melting makes the covering become soggy and wet, and it then has a tendency to rot the stalks if not the root also. The following way has proved the most satisfactory in this climate (Northern Illinois): A rough box-like frame is made that fits around the rose bed, and after the bushes have been properly pruned, a covering is put on in this way. If evergreen branches can be secured they are laid all over the bed and the open spaces are filled in with dry leaves up to the top of the smaller bushes. If evergreen branches cannot be had any other branches may be used, but more filling-in material may be required. If the branches are small it may be necessary to lay boards over to hold them in place; many rose growers think it a good plan to use the boards anyway, as they keep the rain out partially and prevent the leaves from rotting and

settling in a wet mass around the bushes. Climbers or tall growing sorts cannot be covered in this way, but can be tied closely together, bent down over a mound of dry earth and have a covering of boards laid over them, or V-shaped troughs can be inverted over them, which shed the water and form a perfect protection for the stalks.

Many people experience a great deal of difficulty in rooting Hybrid Perpetual and Hybrid Tea roses. When the ordinary June roses and the ever-blooming sorts can be readily rooted, these varieties can seldom be induced to root, and when they do, the slips do not seem to have vitality enough to keep the young plants alive, especially if the slips are rooted in the fall and have to be kept in an ordinary window until spring. I have tried and failed so many times with such roses as Vicks' Caprice, Dinsmore, Gen. Jacqueminot and Paul Neyron, that it seemed useless to try any more; but last fall I learned a way of rooting them that proved a perfect success. Late in the fall when pruning the bushes I selected the best slips and keeping each kind separate placed them in tumblers half filled with sand. These were placed on an upper shelf where the temperature was always high, and the sand was kept wet all the time. In a few days I could tell which slips



From a photograph

CHRYSANTHEMUM
MRS. PERRIN

were going to root, as the ones that start at once into top growth use up all their strength in that way and seldom have any left for roots. After those were disposed of the others remained dormant for some time, but finally they began to root; it was as late as February before many of them were ready to pot off, and not until March were all removed from the sand. They were potted in thumb pots and shifted as often as seemed necessary, and by the last of May were ready to bed out in the open ground. By fall they are large enough to take care of themselves and can be left in the ground with the others.

BERNICE BAKER.

* *

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STRAY LEAVES.

The Thanksgiving month is full of finishing touches for the gardener.

White-sepaled fuchsias are almost always weaker growing than others.

To most people there is something very soothing and refreshing in the odor of the lemon verbenas. Crushed leaves laid against the face often cure bad headaches.

In freshly broken sod, guiltless of all fertilizers, all sorts of narcissi thrive and bloom best. In soils made rich with manure the bulbs either decay or dwindle away to nothing in a few years.

It is a good scheme to plant lilies among hybrid perpetual roses. The rank growth of these roses shades the lilies just enough, and the latter brighten the rows at intervals when hybrid blooms have faded.

We plant our lilies in clumps, three bulbs to the clump and far enough apart to make lifting and replanting unnecessary for four or five years. When we notice the leaves near the bottom canes turning yellow, we are sure that they are too dry at the root. Such canes usually blast their buds, or give too early, dwarfed, poorly colored flowers.

A dear little hardy low-growing thing is *Primula veris*, the true English primrose. It is common enough in England, they say, but I do not remember to have seen it growing anywhere except in Biltmore Park, near Asheville, where it snuggles contentedly down, here and there, along the edge of the drive.

The Whirlwind anemone blooms about a month earlier in our garden than the fine old single sort; is this the case everywhere? And what very deep green, handsome leaves all these Japanese anemones have. The chrysanthemums look blowsy and common beside their waxen flowers and leathery leaves.

A pretty decorative notion for Thanksgiving is a small golden pumpkin hollowed out to receive and hide a fruit-jar, in which is placed a gay bunch of late chrysanthemums. Pumpkins hollowed out for jardinières are also quite quaint looking. Sometimes a jocko-lantern face is cut on the side and filled with luminous good paint, or "fox fire"; almost any wide-awake boy can procure the latter from the woods.

Rosa Wichuraiana is one of the easiest of all roses to grow from cuttings. I began with two plants which spread over several square feet the first season. In the fall the old roots were taken up, trimmed back, and planted in our cemetery. The runners cut off were made into cuttings about six inches long and dropped along about a foot apart in a fresh furrow; a plow covered all but the tips, and then the plowman tramped along the row, making firm the earth around each cutting; this spring nearly all those cuttings began to grow vigorously, and are now fine plants. I shall try rooting some of the hybrid roses in the same way this fall.

The superstition that attaches to Chinese lilies makes most people very anxious to succeed with them. My own experience has been that bulbs planted in soil or water in fall are not so sure to bloom as those planted early in January. By that time the imprisoned buds are so eager to be free that they quickly shake out their white and gold flounces, before careless treatment or untoward circumstances have had time to spoil them. But we always order our Chinese lilies with other bulbs, then lay them away in a dark, cool, dry place. To depend on the Chinese laundryman's generosity, or the dry goods store's cheaper bulbs is poor economy.

The same caution extends to the "left over" collections of all sorts of bulbs, often sold so amazingly cheap late in winter. Often the bulbs in these collections are really quite as fine as those sold for twice the price earlier in the season, but keeping them out of the soil so late has the effect of forcing them. The flowers are usually fine the first year, for the Dutch grower carefully stowed them away inside the bulbs by careful treatment and favorable conditions. But although late planting gives flowers already perfected a chance to bloom, it does not give the bulbs time to perfect flowers for another year, so that a bloomless year or two must follow late planting. "Surprise" collections are thus apt to surprise the buyer more than once.

A pretty screen, for shutting off for the time any cozy corner, may be formed of English ivy. Plant the roots in a long, narrow box of moderate depth, fitted with casters so that it may be rolled about easily; cover the bottom with a strip of zinc or tin and fill in with enough pebbles, charcoal, or broken pots to give good drainage. Then fill with rich soil. The ivy roots should be planted about an inch apart. Wire netting stretched upon a lath frame that fits the box at the bottom, where it is securely fastened, forms the foundation of the screen. It may be broad and low or narrow and high, as may be found most useful. Strong roots

of ivy will cover it thickly and beautifully in two or three years, and it forms a very rich piece of furniture.

The old growl from country gardeners that their chrysanthemums do not perfect their buds soon enough to escape frost, when planted outside, would be heard far less often if the pinching-in process were discontinued earlier, and disbudding better attended to. When only one or two buds are left on a branch the plant can develop them into flowers much sooner than when a club-like mass of buds terminates each shoot, and the flowers will be much larger, more perfect and better colored. The dweller in cities can give his plants longer to mature their buds, because the cloud of smoke, hanging in the air above, keeps frost away at least a month later than in the country.

L. GREENLEE.
North Carolina.

CHRYSANTHEMUM
ANNIE MANDA

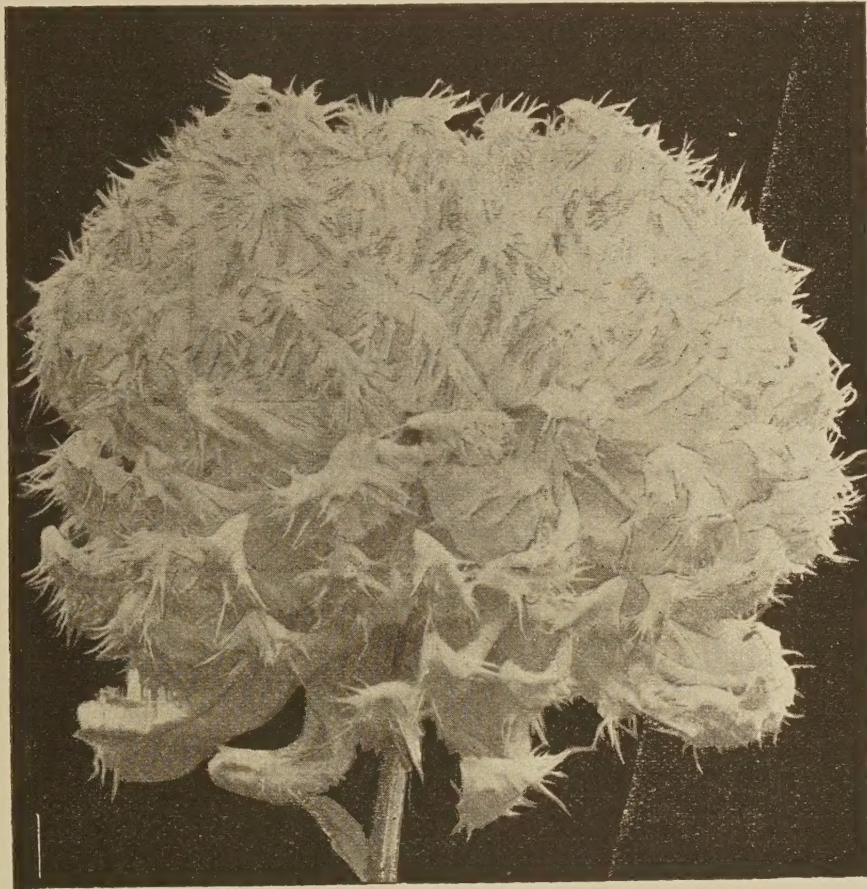
A NEW VEGETABLE.

The young shoots of *Ornithogalum Pyreniacum* are found to be edible, used in the same manner as asparagus. Whether as a culinary plant this bulbous subject can be employed economically is yet to be determined. Such trial, it is understood, is now being made in France, and later something more may be heard on the subject. The plant is a native of England, France and Spain, especially of the Pyrenees Mountains of which region its specific name is commemorative.

ÉDOUARD ROD, the novelist and contributor to the *Revue des Deux-Mondes*, has been engaged by the Cercle Français de l'Université Harvard to give a course of lectures on French literature under its directions before Harvard University during the coming academic year.

These annual series of lectures were inaugurated last year by M. René Doumic, the literary critic of the *Revue des Deux-Mondes*.

M. Paul Bourget, of the French Academy will probably be the Cercle lecturer in the year 1900.



From a photograph

BULGARIAN WILD
FLOWERS.

AN exhaustless subject is this, but a most delightful one not only to the botanist but to every lover of flowers who is acquainted with these children of Nature in that far land.

Even one not accustomed to cherish wild

flowers will be drawn to them on this their carnival ground, first, perhaps, from finding some of his house

and garden pets at home here, and thoroughly toughened to the inclemencies of the most severe weather. Among the first to appear

as the season opens are the pretty little crocuses, peeping from the grass blades and smiling their gratitude that the time for flowers to appear in the earth has fully come. They wear their familiar colors, iris purple, orange yellow and pure white, and bloom as abundantly in these their native haunts as do our first springtime beauties in the New England wildwoods. In the autumn the same flower, apparently, with only half its petals, appears in the same sunny places. This is undoubtedly the colchicum.

Our fragile fairy, Star of Bethlehem, flourishes under the most untoward circumstances, grows large and beautiful at the foot of some stunted shrub in the gravelly borders of a changeable river bed.

Forget-me-nots draw up heaven's blue reflection from the numerous streams and water courses, and sprinkle it lavishly over the verdant banks and among the lush, lowland grasses. What more enhancing hue could have been chosen for the setting of those twinkling orbs of twilight which the poet calls "The forget-me-nots of the angels?"

Ever doubtful of success we have, here at home, sowed our English daisy seeds for our garden borders, and rejoiced if with our utmost pains we secured a few plants as our reward. But in Bulgaria we find their original, its rosy snow drifting thickly over the green sward, double rows of petals surrounding its heart of gold.

The delicate bluebell is there; we have been accustomed to see this, too, in the garden only. Even the cyclamen is a native of the wildwoods, and hides its quaint blossoms among the shadows, like the timid hare shrinking from the approach of human footsteps. A fitting decoration for the banqueting of wood nymphs are these unique and fantastic floral characters.

The pink and white varieties of scabiosa are common flowers along the roadsides and in the mowing lands, growing rank and tall, with flower heads quite eclipsing our cultivated flowers of the same species.

The fields of barley we see from the distance prettily bordered with flowers of intense blue, and on near approach we find the English "corn flower," our centaurea or bachelor's button. I shall never think of these without recalling one day's recreation up among the foothills, far from the city, and hearing the weird, wild minor song of a woman who was reaping wheat in a nearby field bounded by these blue beauties. While we have these masses of vivid color we can hardly miss even the scarlet poppies which "blaze the way" all through Macedonia in April, but which

love the ardent southern sun too well to stray far north. I know not where one could find a rival to these gorgeous masses of color as seen in their wildest profusion.

There are many varieties of pinks and geraniums, and these, contrary to the general rule, seem to need cultivation. Not that they are devoid of beauty; on the contrary there are many lovely specimens among them. But they are small and delicate, having the appearance of growing debilitated in their wild freedom. There are beautifully fringed pinks, so fragile and sensitive as to disappoint me utterly in their gathering; our old-fashioned mullein pinks thrive here; then there are varieties that the unbotanical observer would never recognize as belonging to this family.

Geraniums somewhat surpass the pink family in healthy vigor. One of these grows close to the ground, like various mosses, with fine pink flowers, only the elongated seed pods suggesting its family. Another very common one has beautiful leaves in five sections, cut to the center and these are as deeply sub-divided; these leaves and a rosy pink blossom an inch or more in diameter, with five evenly rounded petals, make a most artistic, airy and graceful combination.

If we are surprised to find many of our garden beauties and house pets coming up wild and unheeded, to waste their sweetness on this desert air, we are hardly less startled by the superior beauty of some of our common wild flowers. Our white daisy (ox-eye daisy or whiteweed) is a good example; it impressed me as being larger, fairer, more golden-hearted than ours at home, as if it had always

been well treated, fed on the fat of the land; and in numbers it is as profuse as it would be in America if left unmolested. With eager delight we waded into their midst and gathered unstintingly. No need here for self-denial or forethought in order to preserve seed for future harvests. In the early summer, hawthorne and wild roses run riot in many places. Which is the prettier roadside ornament is difficult to decide; but with a superabundance of both we need not vote on their comparative merits.

Beautiful orchids are common in mid-summer, and lift their heads above the rank-growing grasses, begging for an admirer and a transplanting. The wild heliotrope is nearly white, with a strong but not wholly pleasant fragrance, and in no respect does it resemble our greenhouse plant, which everybody loves.

One of the prettiest of the very common wild flowers is a dwarf convolvulus, closely resembling in leaf and flower our ranker bindweed. It is the bravest little beauty known to me, asking only a foothold to flourish and bloom with vigor. I

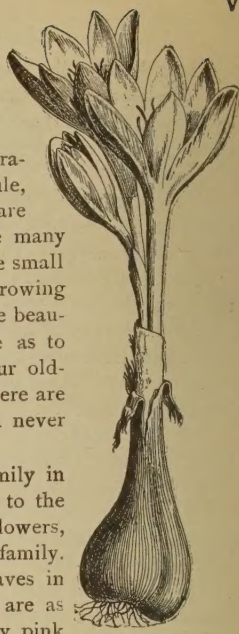
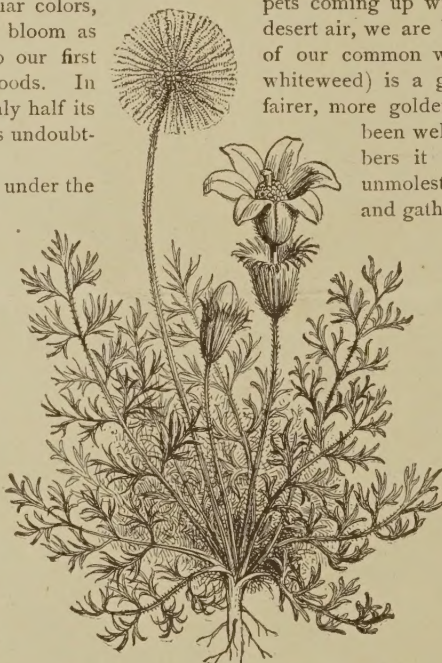
have seen plants clinging to a dry, rain-washed bank from which every other green thing had disappeared. Not a blade of grass or noxious weed dared to struggle for an existence there; yet this tiny vine clung tenaciously to Mother Earth, and opened its pearl and shell-pink cups to be filled with sunshine and the dews of heaven, a joy to the weary traveler, and a marvel of perseverance as well.

In the height of the flower season the wet mowing lots are brilliant with a near relative of the common buttercup, the leaves more resembling spearwort; the flowers are much larger than either and of a vivid orange color, verging on scarlet. These are very conspicuous and attractive among the myriads of blossoms of numberless species surrounding them in the tall grass waiting the tardy haymakers. A New England haymaker would hardly venture there at all, well assured that his more cultured stock would disdain to winter upon such hashy fodder.

On the dry hillsides an abundant



ROSA CANINA SEMPERVIRENS

COLCHICUM
AUTUMNALE

ANEMONE PULSATILLA—One-half natural size



CROCUS SATIVUS

LEUCANTHEMUM
VULGARE, OR OX-EYE
DAISY—one-third natural size



CYCLAMEN EUROPEUM
One-third natural size

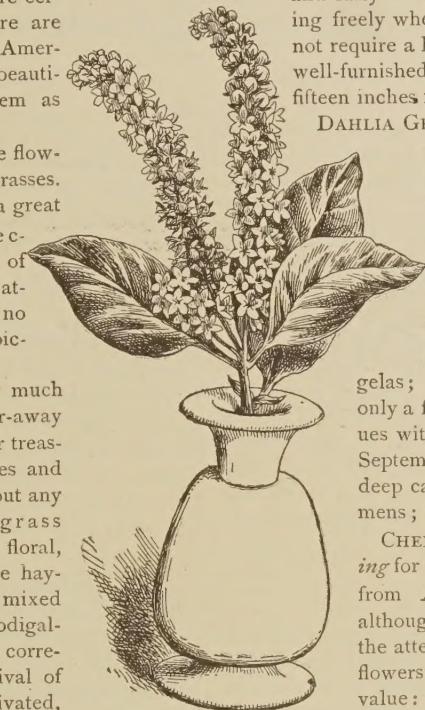
this bit of elegance was not a cultivated flower from someone's flower-filled yard.

Among the novelties in familiar wild flowers is the lilac adder-tongue, which I have never seen or heard mentioned as a resident of this country. The yellow and the white I never saw there.

Here we regard sorrel (rumex) as an unmitigated nuisance. Who that is familiar with the flower, even in its best estate, has ever thought of admiring it? There it is at least threefold magnified, of varying shades of color, and the tall plummy flower heads are certainly handsome and not ungraceful. Also, there are many varieties of thistles, such as no native-born American ever dreamed of seeing at home. They are beautifully formed, ornamentally spurred, some of them as variegated and rich in coloring as Rex begonias.

Last on our list are the flowering and ornamental grasses. Here again is displayed a great variety of beautiful specimens, and a big bunch of these alone makes an attractive bouquet which no lady need grudge a conspicuous place in her parlor.

Nature has still pretty much her own way in that far-away land, and she lavishes her treasures alike upon all classes and conditions of men, without any tax whatsoever. The grass sections are especially floral, and the fields just before haying suggest an immense "wild garden" where mixed seeds have been flung to the breezes with utter prodigality and disregard for harmony in color, and a corresponding carelessness, apparently, for the "survival of the fittest." Flowers are loved, and largely cultivated, also. Every home has its flower plot, if possible. Women and girls in Bulgaria are especially fond of floral ornaments, and wear promiscuous combinations fastened in their head-gear, or in their hair, on all sorts of occasions. It is a common practice when a woman is starting out upon a journey for all her female friends and admirers to bring small bouquets and pin them



HELIOTROPEUM EUROPEUM
One-half natural size

to the front of her waist until she quite resembles an animated flower garden in locomotion. Yet it is a pleasing custom certainly, in token of their wish to strew the way before the traveler with the flowers of kindly thought and loving care, and often is accompanied with a prayer for her future prosperity, also.

SARA E. GRAVES.
Vermont.



CRATAEGUS OXYACANTHUS—ENGLISH HAWTHORNE
One-half natural size

PLANTS NOTICED IN HORTICULTURAL JOURNALS.

A DAHLIA FOR POT CULTURE.—*American Gardening*

gives an illustration of pot-grown dahlia plants of a dwarf variety, pure white flowers, double, borne upright on strong stems; flowers from three and a half to four and a half inches in diameter. They were raised by Mr. A. L. Miller, of East New York. The variety, under the name of *Camelliaeflora*, was procured from Germany several years ago, since which time it has been raised by Mr. Miller "as a pot plant for spring and early summer trade. It makes an admirable pot plant, flowering freely when only six inches high, in a four-inch pot, and does not require a larger sized pot than seven inches to produce a large, well-furnished plant." The full grown plants appear to be about fifteen inches in height.

DAHLIA GRAND DUKE ALEXIS is considered by Grove P. Rawson, florist of Elmira, of all that have come to his notice "the finest, richest and purest rose pink."

WEIGELA EASTERN BEAUTY is announced by A. Blanc & Co., and said to be "the freest and most persistent bloomer of the weigela; commences to bloom when only a few inches high and continues without intermission even until September. Flowers large, a rich, deep carmine with large white stamens; fine for forcing."

CHELONE BARBATA.—*Gardening for October* quotes the following from *Die Binderkunst*: "This magnificent perennial, although known for a long time, has only of late received the attention it deserves, in fact since the custom of wiring flowers has been abandoned. The plants possess a triple value: First, they are handsome ornaments in the garden; second, they are valuable for pot culture and forcing; and third, the flowers are useful for cutting. It is not alone the incomparable light red color of the flower which renders the plant attractive, but also the elegant, though solid, character of the spike. The flowers are borne on a long spike and are very durable, and the spikes produce blooms to the extreme tip. The variety *C. barbata coccinea* is remarkable for the brilliant scarlet color of its flowers. The plant grows from three to four and a half feet high and produces flowers continuously from June till September. It deserves to be planted extensively for cut flower purposes, affording as it does excellent material for vases, table decorations, etc."

This hardy herbaceous perennial is known with us under its correct botanical name, *Pentstemon barbatus*, a plant which attains a height of three to five feet, and blooms all summer. It is a native of the mountains of Colorado and New Mexico. The variety mentioned as *coccinea* is undoubtedly the variety *Torreyi*, of our botanists, and under which name it goes in the trade in this country. The commendations of this plant, as above noticed are well deserved, and it should find a place in every good collections of perennials.



BELLIS PERENNIS
Two-thirds natural size



MYOSOTIS PALUSTRIS
One-third natural size



ERYTHRONIUM DENS-CANIS
One-third natural size

VICKS ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY... MAGAZINE

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CHARLES W. SEELYE, Editor.

ELIAS A. LONG, Associate.
Formerly conductor of *Popular Gardening*

Publishers are invited to use any articles contained in this number, if proper credit is given.

Economic Grasses.

This is the title of Bulletin No. 14 of the Division of Agrostology, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It has been prepared by F. Lamson Scribner, agrostologist. It is a pamphlet of 85 pages, "containing brief descriptions of the more important economic grasses of this country or those which have been introduced because possessing some merit." This publication is an exceedingly valuable one for farmers and horticulturists. Many of the species described are well illustrated, and the special, practical value of each kind is noted. In noticing *Stipa pennata* which gardeners cultivate for its ornamental appearance, the author says: "A variety of this grass (*Stipa pennata neo-Mexicana*) grows wild in the mountain regions of western Texas and Arizona. It is an elegant form of the species, growing in clumps six to twelve inches in diameter, and is deserving the attention of the florist."

A grass which may prove valuable at the extreme South for lawns is the *Zoysia pungens* or Japanese lawn grass. The following is the description: "A creeping maritane grass, growing on the sandy shores of tropical and eastern Asia, Australia and New Zealand. In Australia it is considered an excellent sand binder, and, while valuable for this purpose, is at the same time an excellent forage plant. Under favorable circumstances it forms a compact turf and affords a large amount of choice pasturage. Constant cropping appears to improve it and increases the density of the turf. In the foreign settlements of China and Japan it is prized as a lawn grass, especially for tennis courts. It is finer-leaved than *St. Augustine* grass, and may prove superior to that for lawns in the Southern and Gulf States. The habit of growth of Japanese lawn grass is very similar to that of Bermuda, but the creeping stems are rather stouter and more rigid and the upright branches or tufts of flowering stems are never so tall, rarely exceeding six inches. It may be propagated by root cuttings or by seed. Importations of both roots and seeds from Korea have been successfully grown here, and the grass has proved hardy as far north as Connecticut. The leaves turn brown in the autumn, as do those of Bermuda."

* *

The Aster Disease.

Under this title, *Gardening*, for October, has the following to say:

Numerous complaints of a disease which affects asters have reached us, and so far it appears to have defeated all attempts at eradication. The growers in England, apparently, have to contend with similar difficulties. W. P. Wright, of Kent, says the *Gardeners' Magazine*, recently sent some specimens of diseased asters to the scientific committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, observing that growers of asters in East Kent, especially in the Dover district, are in trouble over an aster disease, which destroys thousands of plants. Some go off directly they are put out, others at a later stage. He found small white grubs in the lower part of the stems, and did not feel any doubt that they were the cause of the mischief. The committee stated that in the *Naturalist*, the organ of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, there is a paper by the Rev. Hilderic Friend on this subject. The worms in question are of the family Enchytræidæ, a group of annelids. Mr. Friend discovered a presumably new form in China asters, and named it *E. parvulus* on account of its minuteness. A full description of the worm is given in Mr. Friend's paper. There is nothing to be done but consign the plants attacked to the flames.

* *

Transplanting.

While the weather continues mild and the ground unfrozen the work of planting and transplanting hardy trees, shrubs and perennial plants and bulbs can go on from day to day. Many kinds of herbaceous perennials in the course of three or four years become large compact masses, filling the soil with roots and exhausting its fertility. When this is the case it is better they should be lifted and be given a new location in well-fertilized soil. The perennial phlox is one of those plants which particularly need this attention, as well as annual manuring, in order to secure

the best and largest flowers. It is better to do such work in autumn than to wait until spring when there are so many other demands on one's time from the garden. Besides, the plants will start earlier in the spring and make a better growth than if disturbed just as they are ready to start to grow. It is always best to give the protection of leaves or litter to plants newly set in the fall in order to prevent frost from running down to the roots. Fall transplanted trees should be either mounded up with soil or be staked to prevent the action of the wind on them, and both these precautionary measures are better than either one alone.

* *

Artificial Coloring of Flowers.

In regard to this subject we offer our readers the following translation from *L'Agriculture Moderne*: "After the experiences of Brockbauck and Darrington in the artificial coloring of flowers by the immersion of the cut stem in a colored solution, flowers of all shades of red may be rapidly obtained with aniline scarlet in aqueous solution; with carmine, indigo blue flowers may be had, and mixtures of these two colors give all the shades of purple and violet.

"The lily of the valley will color in blue and red in six hours; it requires twelve hours to give to the flowers of the white narcissus a deep purple tint; in the same space of time the yellow asphodel takes a deep scarlet tint; for hyacinths, cyclamen, tulips, etc., the coloring is more rapid.

"With a number of flowers, the coloring is not uniform; often the petals only are tinted, while the calyx remains unchanged. In the snow-flake the coloring gives place to a very elegant nervation. Very pretty effects are also obtained with white, such as the aucuba.

"It does not appear that flowers thus treated fade more quickly than others."

* *

Education for Young Men and Women.

Attention is called to the facilities offered to young people to take winter courses of study and practice at Cornell University in agriculture and dairy husbandry. There are two established courses, one of which is General Agriculture and the other a Dairy course. There are many farmers' sons and daughters who cannot spend two or more years at colleges, but who would receive great benefit from lectures and practice during the winter months. It is to meet the needs of such persons that these courses have been established; the term begins the first week in January of each year and extends through one university term of eleven weeks. The fees for the term are very light, and the requirements for entrance are a good moral character, seventeen years of age and a good common school education. Full particulars can be learned by addressing I. P. Roberts, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

* *

International Horticultural Exposition.

The United States Department of Agriculture has received through the Department of State a communication from Count Cassini, Russian Ambassador, stating that the Imperial Russian Horticultural Society will hold an International Horticultural Exposition at St. Petersburg in May, 1899. The United States is invited to take part in the Exposition by sending exhibits and special commissioners to prepare the American section. Exhibits of foreign exhibitors duly accredited will not be subject to customs' inspection at the Russian frontier. Privy Counsellor Fischer von Waldheim, Director of the Imperial Botanical Garden at St. Petersburg, has charge of the foreign sections of the Exposition with the functions of president, and all inquiries relative to the Exposition should be addressed to him.

* *

Double-flowered Begonia Semperflorens.

Last spring the famous French horticulturist, Lemoine, announced the fact of his having obtained, after some years of labor, several varieties or *Begonia semperflorens* with double flowers and which were desirable ornamental plants. This fall he offers four of these varieties to the trade, *Boule de Neige*, white; *Gloire du Montet*, lake rose with carmine buds; *Nancy*, a soft rose color, and *Triomphe de Lorraine*, cherry carmine, buds and reverse of petals scarlet, golden stamens. He also offers two varieties of *Begonias* with double flowers which are fragrant, under the names *B. odoratissima alba plena* and *B. odoratissima rosea plena*, white and rose colored as the names indicate. The flowers of these varieties, he says, exhale an odor of the tea rose, extremely sweet and penetrating.

* *

CYCLAMEN FROM SEEDS—If we would have large cyclamen plants for the Christmas after next, we must not delay sowing the seed any longer, and in all cases we must buy the best strain of seed obtainable and not the cheapest.—*Gardening*.

Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, and to publish the experiences of our readers.

EDITORS.

Stems of Hibiscus.

How is it about the hardy hibiscus, must I cut the new stems away or leave them stand?

Yours truly,

MRS. M. M.

Culton, La Salle County, Ill.

The stems will die down late in autumn, and can then be cut away.

++

Asters and Root Lice.

I noticed in your September MAGAZINE, on page 169, that N. F. of Cincinnati, Ohio, has lost most all of his branching asters on account of lice on the roots of them. Some years ago in purchasing seed from your house I ordered several packages of asters, and when the plants were in bloom I found that one after the other began to wilt and die, and on pulling them up found the same trouble as N. F. did with his. At first I did not know what to do, but it happened to be wash day, and I asked them to keep that water wherein the clothes were boiled, or the first tub. They did so. It was good and strong with soap. Taking a dipper, I put all I could soak in the ground at the root of the sick ones. The next morning you ought to have seen those plants. There was not a sign of sickness. So, if that was good for them, the balance of the asters were going to have the rest of that water. The flowers never had such bright colors, and healthier looking plants I never saw before. In fact, those asters were of all colors and shades of colors, and mixed colors. Soap water, good and strong, is all right, but one must not over-do it. Yours,

A. S.

Bloomington, Ill.

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Trouble With a Rose Bush.

Can you tell what was the matter with my Blush Rose bush last summer? It seemed thrifty and budded very full; but when about half of the buds had blossomed and the others were large and about ready to burst open the outer petals began to turn brown and the whole bud dried up, yet kept its form and size but never opened, and finally fell from the bush. I want to know how to treat the disease, if it is a disease, another year.

MRS. J. M. H.

Berea, Ohio.

The plant had not been pruned close enough and was carrying more buds than it could support, especially with the weather hot and dry. Place a heavy coating of old manure, this fall, on the soil over the roots, letting it lie on all winter, and in spring add some more to it and dig all in. In early spring cut back all the main stems of the plant, taking off two-thirds of last season's growth. There will then be a growth of strong shoots and fewer small ones, a less number of flowers, but larger and better ones.

++

California Violet.

October 15, '98. I have to-day sowed seeds of the California violet. Like some of our native wood violets this species does not seem to perfect seed from the large showy flowers produced in spring, the fertile flowers are mere buds which do not open at all (cleistogamous). Other plants than violets have this habit. Certain Polygalas produce cleistogamous flowers from their roots an inch or more underground. These fertile flowers of the California violet are on stems only an inch or so long and probably are formed in the later summer. A few of the ordinary flowers are now in bloom after the fashion of most of our wildwood species which flower more or less in autumn. I thought at first that these were scentless this frosty morning but when warmed in the house they were as fragrant as ever. The plant has a habit different from any of my local species, of putting out strong running, leafy branches or runners a foot or so long, which take root and form new plants all around the old one. Some native violets have creeping roots which send up new plants here and there but I never saw these runners before that I can remember. The California violet deserves the widest culture. Its leaves are beautiful and delightfully fragrant while every leaf is evergreen, the foliage growing until the snow covers it. The blue periwinkle, *Vinca minor*, is good for one's eyes in winter whenever the earth is free from snow, and here in this violet is a companion for it; thick beds of it, though different in tint and outline of foliage, will care as little for cold. Its habit of layering from runners will soon make it cover sufficient space and no one will regret its planting.

E. S. GILBERT.

++

Covering Strawberry Plants.

The strawberry plants I purchased in September have made a fine growth. I live on the west bank of the Delaware, 120 miles west of New York. Will it be necessary to cover my strawberry plants through the winter? You kindly offer to answer questions in your question column.

MRS. H. H. C.

Wayne County, Pa.

It is very desirable that strawberry plants should be covered in winter. They are very much stronger in the spring for so doing and the covering prevents the frost from lifting them or throwing them out of the ground. The best cultivators always cover the plants. The covering does not need to be heavy, and the material employed may be clean straw or cornstalks cut up or fallen leaves or brakes or swamp grass or evergreen boughs. If leaves are used it is well to scatter some sticks and twigs over the plants first in order to support the leaves to some extent and pre-

vent their holding down the plants too closely and preventing access to air. Coarse stable litter is undesirable from the fact that it is almost sure to carry weed seeds to the bed, which will prove troublesome the following summer. But well rotted stable manure spread between the plants is the best material of all for the purpose.

++

Neglected Beauties.

Among the many pretty and desirable plants mentioned in VICKS MAGAZINE I do not find the following:

SALVIA BONFIRE—For a continual display of Brilliant color I have found nothing to equal it. Though a tender perennial as regards frost, it is very hardy in every other respect and will endure much rough usage. On the approach of heavy frosts last fall I cut back the top to about eight inches and transplanted the root into a good-sized box which I kept in a cool, frost-proof room with plenty of light. About May 1st it was ready to blossom, and was set in the open ground where it has been a blaze of scarlet all summer, a compact bush four feet high. If more plants are desired the drooping branches are easily bent down and covered with earth making well rooted plants in a short time, or they may be kept in blossom the year 'round in a warm place.

PERENNIAL PEAS—While the sweet pea is so frequently a failure and disappointment on rich, heavy soils south of latitude 40° as to be abandoned by many lovers of flowers, the perennial pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*) seems perfectly adapted to those localities where the sweet pea fails; and after well established will bloom profusely all summer until killed by frost. If raised from seed but few blossoms will appear the first year, but, being perfectly hardy the roots grow stronger each year and the flowers more abundant. At present the varieties are limited to red, violet, pink and white but these are quite as pretty as sweet peas of the same shades.

CHICORY—Nearly everybody has heard that the roots are used as a substitute for coffee, a few have learned that the young leaves are better than dandelion for greens, but how many have discovered that a few plants covered for weeks with their beautiful blue blossoms are pretty. Try it.

Kansas.

T. R.

++

Lobelia Cardinalis—Diseased Rose.

1—I have a nice lot of young plants of *Lobelia cardinalis*. They are in a cold frame, planted twelve inches apart. Will it be safe to leave them over winter, or will it be best to plant them in their places in the hardy border?

2—I have a Queen of the Prairie rose that is not doing well. It has a nice place on a trellis. It is five years old and has grown very fast, but the canes are dying. They get black in spots. The leaves get yellow and drop, and one cane goes after another. There are no insects. What can I do?

MRS. F. H.

Grinnell, Powers County, Iowa.

1—The lobelia can be transplanted this fall while the weather remains open. After moving the plants should have a covering of leaves to prevent frost working down among the roots. If the roots are moved and become well established in the fall, they will start earlier than if moved in the spring. But, as it is now late, we would not move all of the plants, even if the weather appears favorable. Move a portion of them and leave the others until spring. In this way there will be two chances of success instead of one.

2—From the description it appears probable that this rosebush is affected with anthracnose, a disease which rarely attacks the rose. We advise our correspondent to send a specimen of the wood to Mr. C. F. Curtiss, director of the Experiment Station, at Ames, Iowa, asking for an opinion in regard to it, and also the best treatment for it. In sending the specimen, send also a description, as full as possible, of the diseased plant, telling all the apparent effects of the disease.

++

Lady-bugs or Lady-birds.

I notice in your September number an article under the heading "A Convincing experiment," advocating gathering lady-bugs to destroy green plant lice and I feel that I would like to warn anyone from trying "a remedy that is worse than the disease." The lady-bugs will eat holes in your rose leaves and cosmos and anything else that takes their fancy, as any garden will bear witness. Like the English sparrow I wish they were all exterminated.

MRS. M. DE L. H.

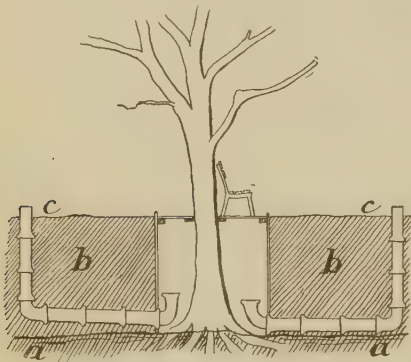
Our correspondent is probably in the right, so, also, is the writer of "A Convincing Experiment," the fact is that nearly all the lady-birds both in their perfect and in their larval forms are insect eaters and destroy innumerable lice and scale, and so are good friends of the gardener. There is, however, one genus of these insects, the individuals of which, both as perfect insects and as larvæ, feed on vegetable tissue. This is the genus *epilachne*, in regard to which Smith in his Economic Entomology says: "There are few rules without exceptions, and so we find sinners among the lady-birds also—all belonging to the genus *epilachne*. The species are large, hemispherical, yellow, with black spots. The larvæ are also yellow, elongate oval, with long branched spines. *Epilachne borealis* is the northern and eastern species attacking cucumbers, melons and similar vines, while *E. corrupta* is found in the west and southwest, injuring beans. A curious feature in *E. borealis* is the manner in which the adult marks out a circle at the edge of a leaf and feeds within it until all usable tissue is exhausted, before proceeding to another place to repeat the operation. As these injurious species feed openly in all stages, they can be reached without trouble by any of the arsnites.

SMOTHERING THE ROOTS OF TREES.

IT IS a fact not generally known that trees may readily be killed by smothering the roots, that is by covering them so deeply with soil or other material, that the supply of air is unduly cut off and the tree dies. Such instances have frequently come under the observation of the writer in connection with landscape gardening improvements.

He recalls especially the case in a Western New York town, where, on a certain street, the front part of the lots laid so much higher than the streets, that it was desirable to cut the soil down before buildings were erected thereon. Now the rear of the same lots sloped away so low, that better shaped building sites could be created by filling in earth in these parts. The conclusion was easily reached, that by moving soil from front to rear in the lot, the surface would be in about the right shape, and this plan was carried out.

In the back of these lots, however, there were some vigorous old orchard and other trees, which were highly prized. The filling in of earth to improve the grade, called for a depth of as much as three and four feet of soil over the roots of these trees. In most cases the owners, before moving in the earth, made boxes of plank about four feet across around the trees, to keep the soil away from the trunks, thinking that this was all the provision needed for their safety.



PROVIDING AGAINST THE SMOTHERING OF TREES
by a heavy filling of soil over the roots

Now for the lesson: The result of that filling in of earth was that after five years, not one of the former healthy trees was alive wherever the soil was deeply filled in. The trees had been smothered effectually. So far as the final outcome was concerned, the boxing of the trunks to keep back the soil might as well not have been performed.

The question therefore arises: Is there no way of saving the life of trees that are too large to transplant in these places where deep filling in over the roots is necessary? To this we answer yes, but it can only be done by some careful provision to continue the supply of air to the roots.

The remedy is not really difficult to apply, and while a little care and expense is involved, we have but to consider the value of vigorous trees in order to see that the outlay is as nothing.

The method of procedure is shown in the annexed engraving. *A a*, represents the old surface of the garden; *b b*, the new soil filled in, and *c c*, the new surface. A box of plank about six feet across is first placed around the tree. Then some lines of six-inch porous sewer pipe are laid as indicated by the engraving, the idea being to have these radiate from the tree in about eight or more directions, having them terminate at the surface, about a rod away from the trunk. With thus having one end some feet higher than the other, enough difference of air temperature will prevail at the extremities of the pipes to cause a moderate circulation of air through the porous pipes and thus to the soil and roots. The ends of the pipes should be closed with coarse galvanized iron screening. The pit around the tree should be covered with narrow slats in a way that will practically extend the new garden surface *c c* directly to the tree trunk. In the engraving a garden settee is shown, placed in the slats of this new surface.

Those who have visited the boulevards of Paris, France, no doubt have observed the precautions taken by the clever French gardeners to ensure air to the roots of town trees. This is in its form a large circular iron grating directly over the roots, the surface of which grating is on a line with the flagging or the pavement stones. In that case the grates are cut in several sections to admit of moving them occasionally, for the purpose of destroying weeds and the like. It is plain that when the occasion arises that makes the watering of trees desirable, the presence of such an air-grate readily aids the application of water.

* *

A MILD AUTUMN.

It is the 24th of October and the slight frosts that have occurred here have only touched the most tender plants. Cannas are still in full foliage and blooming freely. Cosmos has had a long season of bloom and still continues to open its flowers. The foliage of the grape vines, of most varieties, hangs on, nearly as green as at midsummer, and much of the fruit is not yet gathered. But the maple leaves are yellow and falling, and we may expect that any day may bring a withering frost.

Business Department

VICKS ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE is published at the following rates, either for old or new subscribers; these rates include postage:

One copy, one year, in advance, Fifty cents. One copy for twenty-seven months (two and one-fourth years), full advance payment, One dollar.

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WE BEG to inform our readers that hereafter, from month to month, the Business Department will talk to you through this column.

* *

MISCARRIAGE in the mails is one of the annoyances which often mar the relations between publisher and people. When your MAGAZINE fails to reach you there is a fault somewhere. Please do not lose patience and drop us from your list, but send the Business Department a postal card stating your grievance; which will enable us to trace the cause and correct it.

* *

FROM ALL parts of the country the names and twenty-five-cent pieces are coming in on the sewing Machine contest. Many most interesting letters accompany the same, which we regret our inability to acknowledge, save in this general way. It pleases us very much to note the interest the ladies are taking in the naming of this machine.

* *

ALTHOUGH in the nature of things there can be but one winner in this contest, we assure the disappointed ones that there will be enough Sewing machines provided for all, and upon such generous terms to our own subscribers only that none need be without one who will do a little work for the MAGAZINE, to win it.

* *

READ AND show your friends the most excellent clubbing offers in the latter part of this number. Such favors done us, by our friends in all parts of the world, will make our Half-century Celebration a mighty success, and our 100,000 new subscribers for the jubilee year an accomplished fact.

* *

OF LATE requests have been coming in from many quarters for a copy of our New Jubilee Year Premium List. We wish to explain to the friends who have so favored us, that owing to the large amount of other work now pressing for completion in our printing establishment, we have been obliged to delay the work on the Premium List, but will shortly send copies to all who have asked, and as many more as will take the trouble to send their address.

* *

AN EARNEST desire to make the MAGAZINE the very best and most popular paper of its class, leads us to ask our subscribers, one and all, for a free expression of opinion along the following lines, viz:

1. What do you like about Vicks Magazine?
2. What don't you like about it?
3. Can you name any changes or additions that, in your opinion, would improve it?

If our readers everywhere will do justice to this opportunity for a candid statement of opinion, and will write us their approval or disapproval as freely as they would talk at home among themselves, we shall then very soon come to an understanding, and reduce matters to a definite working basis.

Remember you are at liberty to criticise either the form or contents of the MAGAZINE and offer any suggestions whatsoever that may seem to you to be in the direction of improvement. Please address all such communications to the Business Department.

* *

DO NOT let your subscription to the MAGAZINE lapse. Renew promptly, and keep on in the procession. Feel at home and write the editors freely for such information as you may need, within the province of such a publication as Vicks', and you will not only receive their answer, but their thanks as well, since it is their express desire to encourage the freest and most cordial relations between their readers and themselves.

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST



The Oldest Paper in America
FOUNDED A. D. 1728
BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

A high-grade illustrated weekly magazine, equal in tone and character to the best of the monthlies. In addition to the best original matter obtainable, the Post will present each week the best in the newspapers, periodicals and books of the world. It will aim to be to contemporary literature what a Salon exhibit is to art, bringing together the choicest bits of literature from all modern sources and giving them a deserved place together, 'on

the line.' We have the literary resources of the world to draw upon. The best writers of the world are practically a retained corps of contributors. It would be impossible for any magazine, no matter how boundless its wealth, to obtain, as



original matter, the wealth of literature we have to offer weekly. The handsome illustrations in the Post are original.

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THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY, Philadelphia



Plow under the cabbage leaves.
A good time to renew the labels.
Quick with the planting if at all.
A winter blanket of litter suits the bulb bed.
The frost king doesn't ask our pardon,—not a bit.

Turn over the next season's flower beds that are now unoccupied.

A languishing nursery business would be a national calamity.—*Barry*.

Mounding the young trees slightly with earth will save mice nibbles. It may save the life.

Small plants of the hardy shrub *Deutzia gracilis*, if lifted and potted, may be brought into heat and with the slightest of trouble will soon be in bloom.

What the rhubarb bed needs is a heavy dressing of rich compost washed into the soil every autumn. This, of all esculents, needs high annual feeding. It pays back every time.

Who ever passes a lemon verberna bush without giving the leaves a pinch, for the delightful odor. Now the plants should be put to rest in a cool, light cellar, and kept rather dry at the roots.

It is not always the costly floral contrivance that gives the most satisfaction. A cocoanut shell planted to almost any of the vigorous hanging basket climbers makes a pretty inside window ornament.

Look out for plant scale. It often makes progress on ivies, oranges, rubber trees, etc., before its presence is suspected. At first it is almost invisible and clings very close. Hot soapsuds will dislodge it.

Welcome, *Chrysanthemums*. No one for a moment disputes that you are queen of the dark days of autumn. Other flowers come to cheer us in bright days, but you, O precious queen, when other kinds are shy.

One secret of success in asparagus culture is to burn the tops in autumn to destroy the seed. To permit the seed to fall and germinate is to encourage an addition of plants in beds already too greatly crowded, perhaps. It means inferior asparagus in later years, without the cause being known.

One of the best protections for small shrubs and plants in winter is evergreen boughs. A good sized Norway spruce wind-belt will supply wagon loads of the boughs without injury,—really with benefit to the trees,—and these will be valuable for the purpose. The butt ends may be stuck into the soil in protecting shrubs. They are a natural protector, the use of which should be more general.

Floral patriotism. The late war called into creation some work which shows our florists to be what may be called real enterprising. We recall a floral cannon, some four feet in height, which occupied a prominent window in a town school one gala day, and which attracted much patriotic attention. Floral shield, swords,

knapsacks, and banners were common designs not infrequently made by American florists. Then there were the flower beds that vied with streaming banners from verandas in showing the patriotism of the owner, by the display of notional colors.

Gooseberries. Americans have little idea how prominent a fruit the gooseberry is in the British Isles. In the month of August it is about as abundant in the markets of London and other cities as is the strawberry in our own in its season. The fruit possesses a beauty, sweetness and large size that is quite unknown, generally speaking, on this side of the Atlantic. Why this difference? It lies largely in the peculiar adaptation of the English climate to this fruit. But let not Americans give up in the production of new varieties on that account. The gooseberry, like the grape, is a native of our land, and as we see what wonderful developments have been made in the latter fruit by selection and cultivation, we should take courage and believe that the advancement reached by the English in gooseberry cultivation is yet possible to our own land. But it must be by the course of obtaining an abundance of good varieties that are especially suited to our climate. It can be done. It would be worth while. We have made some progress, but more is in order.

Birds. Let us not forget the wardens of the vine. Dr. Kirtland, of pomological fame, used to say that "Rather than kill birds to save fruit I would raise more fruit to attract the birds." Golden words! We wish they might be framed in a million homes of our land, to the salvation of our crops and trees. Who does not know that the great increase of insect depredations in recent years, amounting now to hundreds of millions of dollars loss every year, is co-existent

with the terrible slaughter of birds,—through recklessness in part, and for gratifying the wicked whims of fashion, in larger measure,—that for a long time has been going on. The writer does not recall one of our common birds that he would permit to be destroyed. Even the English sparrow, which nearly everyone in ignorance condemns and kills, may come to his garden of thirteen acres and find perfect shelter. Not one bird or nest of this lively little fellow has ever been permitted to be molested on his domain. They are numerous; they are welcome; and in twelve years' time they have not done a dollar's worth of noticeable damage, while of insects they have been large consumers, and their young have been fed with them. The robins stand charged with a larger bill against them for cherries taken, but the account is more than balanced by the insects they have destroyed and the cheer imparted to rural life. Let our prayer be for more birds, and let our determination be to protect them as we pray.

Staying trees without stakes. No one questions the desirability of staking all newly set trees in order to prevent serious disturbance to the roots by the shaking of the tree, as a result of the wind, of children, etc. True, in many cases, especially where large numbers are set, the staking may be neglected, but never without some impediment to future growth. When it comes to setting a few choice and costly ornamental trees around the house, there can be little excuse for running any risk of losing stock by the neglect of staking; here, of all places, it should be done. Now, some persons would think it an inviting task to stake deciduous trees that have a clean trunk, who would pass by evergreen trees because they are

Star Collection

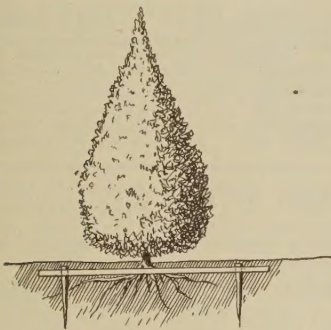
for 1898 is one of the best collections ever offered. We cannot substitute, as the bulbs are grown in Holland and put up especially for our trade. We buy very large quantities which enables us to sell at almost wholesale. Orders will be filled in the order they are received, as long as the stock holds out. Send orders early,—we shall begin mailing as soon as the bulbs arrive.

50 Bulbs for \$1

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| 1 Hyacinth , Prince of Orange, bright red | 6 Crocus . Large, fine bulbs; the first harbingers of Spring. |
| 1 " Prince of Saxe-Weimar, blue | 6 Oxalis . Among the most beautiful and effective flowering plants. |
| 1 " La Virginite, Pure white. | 5 Narcissus . Comprising all the well-known sorts. |
| 2 " Early White Roman. Each bulb produces several graceful spikes of flowers. | 3 Jonquils . Admirably adapted for window culture. Sweet scented. |
| 6 Tulips , Single Early, including pure white, golden yellow, brilliant scarlet, and the handsome Parrot tulip. | 5 Ixias . Few flowers attract more attention; curious in form and strange colorings. |
| 6 Freessias . An early and beautiful white bloom, very fragrant. | 4 Allium Neapolitanum . Beautiful white flowers growing in clusters. Will start to grow as soon as potted. |
| 4 Anemones . The well-known Wind-flower; finest colors, including The Bride, pure white. | |

James Vicks Sons, Rochester

without clear trunks against which to attach stakes. And yet, because of the fact that the latter are in leaf the year round,—hence affording just so much more resistance to the wind that causes the mischief to unstaked trees,—this class of all others most requires staking. Some kinds, such for instance as the Arbor vitæ and juniper, are not easy to stake in the ordinary way because it is quite impossible to get a stake close to the main central branch. The object of this paragraph is, therefore, to show how evergreen or any trees may have their roots stayed quite as effectually as by staking, and yet have no stakes in sight. The idea is clearly shown in the engraving. It consists of providing two strong strips, preferably of oak, which are laid across the roots,—being particular to



STAYING TREES WITHOUT STAKES

have them rest directly on some of the stronger ones,—and then securely pinned down with oak stakes as shown in the figure. This, it will be observed is to be done before the upper soil is covered in over the roots. When it is remembered that the injury to unstaked trees comes from the roots being swayed out of place by having the tree moved too and fro by wind or otherwise, it is at once seen that to steady the roots as here indicated answers the purpose, of ordinary staking very completely.

THE APPLE SCAB.

It seems conclusively proven that wood ashes applied to the soil have no practical value as a scab preventive, and that only two lines of defense against the scab are open,—the development of resistant varieties, and protection by spraying with fungicides. As the former, if possible, is a very slow process, the best advice to give now seems to be to spray the apple orchard thoroughly with Bordeaux mixture.

Such is the last paragraph in Bulletin No. 140, Popular Edition, of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station. It is also the last word of science in relation to this subject up to the present time.

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HINTS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.

For the Thanksgiving dinner table nothing is more appropriate than a centerpiece of fruits and grains, as shown in the illustration above. In this decoration five vases are used, the center vase being a little larger than the others and is filled with grains and ornamental grasses. Around these, forming an oval, are piled with taste, apples, oranges, pears and grapes, with an edging surrounding all formed of cyperus or fern leaves.

- Dinner for Thanksgiving day.
- Blue Points in beds of cress
- Consommé
- Boiled Striped Bass, white sauce
- Mashed Potatoes
- Roast Turkey, bread stuffing
- Cranberry sauce
- Slices of cold Boiled Ham
- Boiled Rice
- Browned Sweet Potatoes
- Lemon Water Ice
- Broiled Quail on Toast
- Current Jelly
- Lettuce Salad, French Dressing
- Crackers
- Cheese
- Mince Pie
- Pumpkin Pie
- Nuts
- Raisins
- Fruits
- Coffee

Pumpkin Pie—One pint cooked pumpkin, one quart milk, sweeten to taste; four eggs, two tablespoonsful ground ginger. Mix sugar and eggs together and salt to taste.

Pumpkin Pie—One pint stewed pumpkin, two or more eggs, sweeten to taste with molasses and sugar, one pint of rich milk,—or cream, which is better,—a little salt; season with cinnamon or nutmeg, and ginger also if desired; stir well together and bake with one crust only in deep pie dish, and in a quick oven.

Preserved Pumpkin—Cook and put through a colander as for pies; then add nearly as much sugar as there is pumpkin; stir well and pack in crocks. For winter use this is better than dried pumpkin.

Mince Pie—Two bowls of meat chopped fine, one bowl of chopped suet, four bowls of apples, three and one-half pounds of currants and raisins seeded, one-half pound citron, and desert spoonful of cloves, four tablespoonsful of cinnamon, one coffee cup molasses, two bowls sugar, a little salt. Mix with boiled cider and then cook ten or fifteen minutes.

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The Diamonds Co., Rochester, N. Y.

LITTLE WHY, WHEN AND WHO.

"Mamma, what makes the flowers grow?
Where do they hide away from the snow?
How do they know when the snow is gone,
And its time to show above the lawn?
Why do lilies grow tall and straight,
And morning glories twine?
Why does the cosmos bloom so late,
And sweet peas all the time?
"Where do they buy such beautiful scent?
Do bees ever cry when the honey's spent?
How do plants feel when we cut their stems?
Why do you kneel and call them gems?
Why were ragged ladies named?
They never tear their clothes.
Could butterflies ever be tamed,
By me, do you suppose?
"What makes you say that I'm your flower?
Flowers don't play and all look sour,
And droop their heads as if tired out,
Nor when they are wet, or hot do they pout.
Do bachelors have buttonholes,
To match their buttons blue?
Who put out the eyes of the garden moles?"
And its "why," and "when," and "who."
DAME DURDEN.

100,000 new subscribers for this MAGAZINE in 1899. Will you help in this effort?

Bulbs for Fall Planting
Plants for the House
Flowering Shrubs
Roses, and Small Fruits

See list in September number of VICKS MAGAZINE, or write for Catalogue, which will be mailed free upon application.

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THE STANDARD PENS OF THE WORLD.

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THE FAMILY COZY-CORNER

ENGLISH IVY A FLOWERING PLANT.

I see in your February MAGAZINE, in "Buds and Fruit," page 59, that Mrs. L. D. Herman, of Ulster County, N. Y. mentions an "English Ivy as not a flowering plant." I am afraid she has not seen one of any great age. Those we had in England, with a stem as big as your waist, always bore in the autumn a small white flower, which afterwards turned into small black berries all in a tight bunch. There is another ivy with ovate leaves, which has a fine purple berry with small stems standing up from the center, tipped with yellow. I have a nice ivy on an upright frame, and just now (February 17th) the tender green leaves are coming out and are beautifully marked. I keep my ivy out of doors, as it is all the better for a little frost and when it comes here it is pretty sharp.

E. L. H.

St. Augustine, Fla.

"FLOWERS, GOD'S THOUGHTS."

Could anything be more delightful than the July number of VICKS MAGAZINE? So many things are mentioned which are, to me, special favorites; the article entitled "Wild Flowers" called up dear memories,

"When daisies and buttercups gladdened my sight,
Like treasures of silver and gold."

Already in my garden are twenty-nine different sorts of wild flowers; these do not include my pretty bed of ferns, or my Rudbeckia, which I suppose is really a western wilding. It is nine feet high, filled with buds and blossoms, and I have to go upstairs and look down upon it to get the benefit of the "Golden Glow."

"Planting a Clematis" interested me. Three years ago we set out several new plants, giving them all the same treatment; among them was a small clematis; digging a hole about three feet deep, we put in a good bit of manure, and instead of water about three quarts of sliced potatoes, more soil, then the plant with the roots carefully set, filling in with good soil. Every one of the plants lived and thrived. Last year the clematis was a mass of starry beauty; this year it is twice as large and full of buds. Someone has said "Flowers are God's thoughts toward us."

GRANDMA.

Easthampton, Mass.

IMPATIENS SULTANI.

An Obituary.

Died on the 22d of December, 1897, our beloved IMPATIENS SULTANI, in the second year of her reign. Her death was caused by a cold contracted through the gross neglect of her guardians. Peace to her ashes,—where shall we find her like again?

The above refers to the most satisfactory house plant I ever owned. A little slip was given to me, and as soon as rooted it bloomed; all summer it grew and blossomed constantly. When brought in for the winter it kept it up; there was no day that Sultani did not hold up several of her rosy carmine blossoms for our delight. The green aphids loved her, and in March she nearly died from its attentions; the stalks dropped their glossy green leaves and stood tall and transparent, crowned with a few buds and leaves; this lasted two weeks, then the plant began to grow and develop its buds.

In September it measured two feet high and the same through, and was, as it always had been, perfectly symmetrical. It bore at one time a hundred blossoms, and buds too thick for me to count. But one night there was a party, and a necessary change from the conditions which ordinarily prevailed in the house, and the Queen of the Window-garden was frozen stiff. But what a record she left! During her eighteen months of life she lost only two weeks of bloom and received only ordinary care, soil and water.

DAME DURDEN.

CINNAMON VINE.

Someone has written of the Chinese yam or cinnamon vine that it has neither beauty of foliage nor bloom, and is a worthless vine. I wish I could today (August 26th) show mine to that writer; I am sure he would be converted. It is loaded with long sprays of fragrance and modest beauty. The clustered racemes of white, bead-like flowers at the axil of each leaf, fill the whole yard with their perfume, and

the foliage, though sparing, is truly pretty. I admit that the leaves along the main vine are not at all attractive, but the young branches are clothed in shining, heart-shaped, ribbed leaves that far surpass the pretty drapery of the old morning glory, so much admired in childhood.

I procured a small tuber from the South some ten or twelve years ago, and planted it in highly enriched clay soil. It made but little growth that summer. In the fall, when taking it up for winter quarters (supposing that it must be kept like a dahlia) I was surprised to find that the tuber was no larger than when planted. The next year and the next I gave it the same treatment, with the addition of frequent waterings from barnyard drainings, still taking it up on the approach of winter. Meantime the tuber made no growth. One fall I was sick and my poor yam remained in the ground. Kind nature scattered leaves over the spot and the next year it made a much better appearance, doubling its growth; and now each summer we are cheered with its bloom and fragrance. I have occasionally worked in around its base a litter of old leaf mold and sand, but have not disturbed the old tuber, nor do I know what growth it has made. Some day I mean to see if we cannot have a meal from the new tubers that have formed around it; but, as neighbor Smith says I shall have to "go around to China to dig them," I will wait until another day for my report on their edible qualities. If they should prove as palatable as some say, I shall try planting the little bulbets that form so plentifully in the axils of the leaves, and see if we cannot have a new table relish.

E. W. P.

FLOWERING PEA SHRUB.

This new flowering shrub, though recently introduced, is fast growing in favor among gardeners. "It has been a favorite in England for some years, being known there under the name of pendulous trefoil. For use in large grounds or parks its equal is seldom seen, while single specimens on smaller grounds are very attractive. Our public parks show some extra fine specimens of the shrub, which deservedly attract a great deal of attention with their long, drooping branches, from which hang such great numbers of delicate purple or lilac, pea-shaped flowers."

The plant, like almost all of our finest ones of recent introduction, comes to us from Japan, but seems to become naturalized very easily, and proves perfectly hardy in all parts of the country. The branches all die down each season, the new growth coming from the root each spring. It should not be inferred from that, however, that the shrub is of low growth, as it grows to the height of four or five feet and almost invariably blooms the first season after planting. It seems to be a peculiarity of the plant everywhere to die down each fall, and even in the South of France, where the winters are extremely mild, the top dies just as it does here. If left to itself, the plant spreads rapidly, forming a large regular shaped bush, one several feet in diameter not being unusual if properly cared for. Its drooping habit makes it a remarkably attractive specimen for the lawn at any season, but not until it begins to bloom is its full value realized. Its flowering season is late, strangely for a shrub, being from August until killed by the frost, the flowers being borne in the greatest profusion. In fact, some of the branches are so loaded that they almost droop to the ground with the weight of the blossoms; for this reason extra heavy fertilizer should not be given the plant, as it causes a rank, long-jointed growth that is not strong enough to support the extreme weight in blooming season. The plants have been found fine for greenhouse use, as they can be held back from blooming so that the whole of the flowering season can be had under glass during the late fall, when there are very few flowers of that class. For the window garden they could only be used by giving a large window up to the plant, as it must not be crowded. To show its true beauty, it must be allowed to have plenty of room in which to keep its natural drooping form.

L. A. H.

SOME POINTS ABOUT ANNUALS.

Soil for annuals should be dug deep and fine. Do this in autumn, if possible, and cover it with good stable manure, three or four inches deep. This may be either dug or raked off in spring. Don't sow the seed in the beds where plants are to grow, for if you do quite likely you will be very much disappointed and blame the seedsman for sending you poor seed, and your beds are liable to look "patchy," where some of the seed failed to grow, or if it did sprout, the conditions were such that the young plants could not endure the strain and so succumbed to it. Some of them I sow in the hotbed or in boxes of earth in

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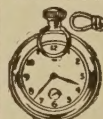
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The artichoke is wonderfully hardy and very productive, yielding roots in immense quantities. They are like potatoes in appearance, and if we had no potatoes would make a good substitute. Plant them same as potatoes, but as they are hardy the best month in which to plant them is November. Usually after gathering the roots, enough is left in the ground for next year's crop.

Delivered by mail for 30 cents per pound.
Delivered at the freight or express office in Rochester for \$2.00 per bushel.

James Vicks Sons, Rochester, N. Y.

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the house, but only those varieties which need a very early start.

Pansies, Japanese and Chinese pinks, salvia, verbenas, moonflower, Brazilian morning glory and Cobaea scandens, are examples of this kind. Long experience has taught me that pansies and the pinks above mentioned should be grown as annuals if the best results are to be had. It is some years since I have flowered one of these plants more than one season. A little later in the season prepare boxes of any convenient size, four inches deep, fill with fine rich soil and in these sow the seeds of such annuals as have not been already started in the hot-bed or house. These boxes are much better than a seed bed no matter how well sheltered, as they can be lifted about and then moved into the stable or any out-house where they will be secure from frost at night, or the cold storms which are liable to occur in this latitude even late in May.

Now, there are a few plants which do better if the seed be sown where they are to bloom. Such are poppies, sweet peas, nasturtiums, morning glories, mirabilis and Convolvulus minor. Almost without exception I would always put all the other annuals in the seed box, although sometimes I sow sweet alyssum and mignonette, where I want a large bed filled with a dense growth. But the waste of seed in these cases is considerable. The boxes may be sown some time during April or May, depending on the location, variety, etc. Press down the soil level and firm. On this sow the seeds and cover with a mixture of one-fourth soil and three-fourths sand sifted through a sieve. A safe depth is twice the diameter of the seeds to be covered. Water with warm water, 90° or so, and keep surface moist enough for germination all the time. Don't let the boxes dry out. As soon as the plants are through the soil cultivate between the rows. A steel kitchen fork is the best thing for the purpose. Do not keep as moist as during germination. Allow the soil to become dry, but do not let the plants droop or wilt for want of water. Continue the cultivation, stirring up from a half inch to one inch depth of the surface, until time for transplanting. If the plants are of a kind you wish to have branching and dense of growth near the ground, begin pinching back while yet in the seed box and they will be fine stocky plants, with plenty of roots when you transplant.

Transplant in cloudy weather, if possible, but it is better not to have a heavy rain on them until they are well established, especially if there is water at hand to supply needed moisture. However, we cannot control the weather, so the plants should be hardened to all sorts of weather, by taking the boxes by degrees from their sheltered stands and placing them where wind, rain and sun can carry on the toughening process.

Most varieties of annuals will do fairly well in any soil, but of course the best is a sandy loam, well enriched with good stable manure, well rotted. Manure from an old cow pen is best. If natural fertilizer cannot be had, good commercial fertilizers will do, but are not so good.

The nasturtium is the only annual requiring a poor soil. It does best on a gravelly yellow clay, and a bed of it should always be separated from everything else, and no manures permitted to come near it. Cultivate the plants, keeping an inch of loose, dusty soil on top. This prevents evaporation, and is especially necessary where artificial watering cannot be secured.

To sum up: Beds thoroughly fertilized and dug finely to a depth of twelve to eighteen inches, a well prepared surface into which is transplanted thrifty young plants, placed at proper distances, good cultivation and masses of the finest flowers eye ever beheld; loads of them—the more you cut them the more they bloom. Then they keep right at it until frozen up in the autumn. Petunias, smooth, solid colored, spotted, fringed and frilled, from two to five inches (sometimes six or more) in diameter. Stripes and patches of phlox of wondrous brilliance. Pansies, four inches across, and wondrously beautiful. Asters so large that one is afraid to put it in print for fear of being charged with stretching things. Poppies, which dazzle the eyes to look at. Diadem pinks, which seem to glow with a strange fire clear across their three or four inches of fringed petals. Snapdragons, whose spikes are so heavy and long that one has to hunt out the heavy bottomed vase, or they will tip over. Alyssum in great snowdrifts. Mignonette, stocks and nicotiana, filling the air with fragrance, while the more delicate but wonderfully delicious odor of the verbenas is wafted up from a bed where the large, beautiful umbels fairly crowd each other, completely hiding the leaves. S. L.

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Oh! the golden-rod is gleaming
In each nook and tangle wild,
Where the autumn light is streaming
Its wealth of gold is piled.
It is massed in shining beauty,
Till its blossoms sweep the sod;
Nature heralds in the autumn,
With a flame of golden-rod,
Till it seems the miser woodlands,
No more of wealth can hold,
And the broad lands of the pastures,
Are brooded with its gold.
And there lies a glowing pathway,
Where in triumph nature trod,
When she heralded the autumn,
With a flame of golden-rod.
Oh! the maples' crimson beauty,
And the beeches all ablaze,
Stand like sentinels on duty,
To guard the woodland ways.
And the golden-rod serenely,
In the breezes sway and nod.
Nature heralds in the autumn,
With a flame of golden-rod.

WINFIELD L. SCOTT.

WE CALL attention to the new advertisement under caption of "If You Will." S. M. BOWLES is a thoroughly reliable man. It will pay you well to answer the ad.

FACTS ABOUT INCUBATORS.

The poultry business has awakened into new life during the past few years and the well built, substantial and convenient poultry house is fast taking the place of the old shack which has served its owner so faithfully as a breeder of lice and roup. It is safe to presume that no subject connected with this industry is receiving wider attention than the incubator and brooder, and we believe that no firm manufacturing that line of goods have become more favorably known than the Des Moines Incubator Co. This firm reports the following sales made during the past season. In each case, the buyer first purchased one machine and gave it a test before placing an order for a greater number: L. G. Fisher, prop. Chatham Fields Farm, Chicago, 24 300 capacity incubators and 20 200 outdoor brooders; H. Hartsoog, prop. Iowa Poultry and Supply Co., of Otumwa, Ia., 22 300 and 2 200 capacity incubators; J. W. Darby, Greenfield, Ia., 15 300 capacity incubators; C. F. Newman, Rossville, Huguenot, Staten Island, N. Y., 8 300 and 4 200 capacity incubators. Besides these large orders, a great many foreign shipments have been made, including one to Bombay, India; one to Sidney, New Zealand, and an outfit weighing 700 pounds to Roumania, Europe. It is very apparent that this firm is making rapid progress toward the top rung of the ladder of incubator fame, and if any of our readers are expecting to adopt the artificial way of raising poultry, it would be to your interest to correspond with the DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO., Des Moines, Iowa.

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MOIST AIR IN CONSERVATORY.

One evening the writer was calling on a friend, the appointments of whose home indicated wealth and luxury. Among other things was a fine conservatory, and in speaking of this the lady of the house remarked "My plants are not doing very well; the air of the conservatory seems too dry since the furnace was started."

As the conservatory was heated by means of pipes, the writer suggested: "How would it do to take a towel and place one end of it in a dish which is kept constantly filled with water, and then lay the other end of the towel on the warm pipes?" In this way moisture would be slowly generated and the plants must reap the benefit of it.

Sometime afterward I again met the lady and inquiring with regard to the success of the experiment, was told that it worked admirably, supplying just what was lacking in the conservatory. Thinking that possibly the suggestion may be of use to someone else who is similarly troubled, it is here recorded for the use of any who may desire to put it into practice.

MARY B. WILEY.

* *

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We have just received from the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway an unusually interesting and timely bit of railroad literature in the way of an illustrated folder, replete with information about the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands, and calculated to open the eyes of the commonality of people as to the extent and resources of these groups and the business opportunities now unfolding within the bounds of these newly acquired domains. Any one of our readers may have a copy of this interesting and valuable little book by sending four cents in stamps to Mr. D. B. Worthington, Traveling Passenger Agent of the road, Buffalo, N. Y.

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